

Message Text

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11

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-20 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 L-03 AID-20 FRB-03 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 SP-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

DRC-01 /155 W

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R 191930Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6682

INFO AMEMBASSY RDIGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 1735

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: ETRN, PFOR, TD, XL

SUBJ: PM BARROW CRITICIZES GOTT AVIATION POLICY

REF: BRIDGETOWN 1251

1. PRESS CONFERENCE WITH BARBADOS' PM BARROW IN ST. LUCIA REPORTED REFTEL WAS SHOWN ON TRINIDAD TELEVISION EVENING OF JULY 17 AND SEEN BY DCM AND E/C OFFICER. HIS CRITICISM OF THE GOTT AND HIS EVIDENT RELUCTANCE TO SUPPORT CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC INTEGRATION HAVE ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE ADVERSE COMMENT IN TRINIDAD.

2. LOCAL PRESS HAS DRAWN ATTENTION TO PETULANT TONE EMPLOYED BY BARROW (HE REFERRED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AS "WHOEVER THAT IS"), AND NOTED THAT HE COMPLAINED OF ONLY BEING NOTIFIED (INSTEAD OF BEING INVITED) OF A CARICOM MEETING WHICH WAS TAKING PLACE AT THE SAME TIME (AND IN THE SAME BUILDING) AS HIS PRESS CONFERENCE. TRINIDAD GUARDIAN EDITORIALY ATTACKED BARROW'S REFERENCE TO BARBADOS' HAVING FAVORED BWIA BY GRANTING LANDING RIGHTS, AND SAID THAT FAR FROM BEING A FORM OF CHARITY, THIS
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HAD LED TO THE STRENGTHENING OF BARBADOS' TOURIST INDUSTRY.

3. ALTHOUGH BARROW CATEGORICALLY REFUSED TO PROVIDE ANY SUPPORT FOR BWIA, HE DID SEEM TO RECOMMEND THAT HIS GOVERNMENT--ALONG WITH THE ASSOCIATED STATES--SHOULD TAKE OVER LIAT. HE SUGGESTED THAT THEY COULD DEVELOP LIAT ALONG LINES OF U.S. FEEDER AIRLINES, NOTING THAT SUCH AIRLINES SERVE ONLY WITHIN A REGION AND RECEIVE GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES. BARROW'S REMARKS ABOUT FEEDER AIRLINES FOLLOWED A SEVERAL-MINUTE-LONG DIGRESSION INTO ALLEGED CIA OWNERSHIP OF AN AIRLINE IN GUATEMALA, AND AN UNCLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN LEGITIMATE AND ILLEGITIMATE GOVERNMENTS OPERATING IN THE UNITED STATES.)

4. COMMENT: FROM WHERE WE SIT, BARROW'S PRESS CONFERENCE WAS REMARKABLE FOR ITS LACK OF CONCERN FOR THE CARICOM ECONOMIC INTEGRATION MOVEMENT, AND FOR HIS EXCEEDINGLY UNDIPLOMATIC PUBLIC CHARACTERIZATIONS OF HIS FELLOW GOVERNMENTS AND COLLEAGUES. THE CONTEMPTUOUS TONE OF BARROW'S REMARKS WHEN DISCUSSING TRINIDAD WERE IN FACT PROBABLY MORE DAMAGING THAN THE ACTUAL STATEMENTS THEMSELVES INsofar AS THE EFFECT ON WHAT IDEALLY SHOULD BE A MUTUALLY COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP AMONG MAJOR CARICOM PARTNERS IS CONCERNED. THIS ATTITUDE ALSO TENDS TO CONFIRM COMMENTS MADE TO US BY AN ADVISER TO THE GOTT DELEGATION AT THE PRELIMINARY TALKS IN ST. LUCIA, WHO RETURNED TO TRINIDAD IN DISGUST, SAYING THAT THE BARBADOS REPRESENTATIVES OPPOSED ALL SUGGESTIONS BY OTHERS YET OFFERED NONE OF THEIR OWN. MILLER

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